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Usage.—If 'use is the law of language' then the supporters of 'glucinum' have little upon which to base their argument. By far the larger number of investigators of the element and its compounds have used and are using 'beryllium.' All the leading chemical journals of the world with the exception of those in the French language give preference to the latter term and in most cases use it exclusively. The German, Swedish and Dutch chemists who have the greater number of original articles to their credit use no other. Italians use 'berillio' from the same root. English journals until recently used the name preferred by the particular author but they have now almost ceased to put even the 'glucinum, see beryllium' in their indexes.

For American chemists to attempt to bring the world to the use of 'glucinum' when by far the majority of chemical journals have dropped it even as a synonym is, in my opinion, worse than useless even if there was a preponderance of argument in its favor.

CHARLES LATHROP PARSONS.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE,
November 11, 1904.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

CLIMATE OF BALTIMORE.

THE Maryland Weather Service has issued a valuable 'Report on the Climate and Weather of Baltimore and Vicinity,' by Dr. O. L. Fassig, section director of the U. S. Weather Bureau in Baltimore, and in charge of meteorological instruction in Johns Hopkins University. This volume ('Special Publication,' Vol. II., Part Ia., 1904) was preceded, in 1899, by Vol. I., in which a report on the physiography of Maryland was followed by papers on 'The Aims and Methods of Meteorological Work, Especially as Conducted by State Weather Services,' by Professor Cleveland Abbe; 'A Sketch of the Progress of Meteorology in Maryland and Delaware,' by Dr. O. L. Fassig, and an 'Outline of the Present Knowledge of the Meteorology and Climatology of Maryland,' by F. J. Walz. The present report is modelled on the lines of climatological discussions laid down by Hann, in his 'Handbuch der Klimatologie,'

Vol. I., and is the first, in point of completeness and thoroughly scientific quality, of American publications on the climatology of special areas. There are numerous graphic illustrations of the variations of the different elements, which help greatly in an adequate understanding of the conditions discussed. Each element is considered with reference to (a) its diurnal period, (b) its annual period, and (c) its variability, or non-periodic aspects of long and short duration. In the present issue, Part Ia, atmospheric pressure and temperature are considered. The discussion of humidity, precipitation, cloudiness and sunshine, and winds, is reserved for a later issue, now in press. Part II. will concern 'Weather.' Dr. Fassig is to be congratulated on the successful accomplishment of what has certainly been an arduous task. He has the satisfaction of knowing that he has given American climatology an impetus which it sadly needed.

CYCLONES OF THE FAR EAST.

IN 1897 there was published by the Manila Observatory a monograph entitled, 'Baguios ó Ciclones filipinos,' in which Father José Algué, S.J., director of that institution, summarized what was then known concerning the typhoons of the Philippine Islands. A German translation, by Dr. Paul Bergholz, appeared in 1900, under the title, 'Die Orkane des fernen Ostens,' and an English translation of Dr. Bergholz's translation, by Dr. R. H. Scott, was published in 1901. In an enlarged edition, with the addition of newer material, and of a more complete discussion, we now have a volume of 283 quarto pages (Manila, 1904), issued as a 'Special Report of the Director of the Philippine Weather Bureau,' and bearing the stamp, Department of the Interior, Weather Bureau. The title has been changed to 'The Cyclones of the Far East,' because the field covered is larger than that in the case of the first edition of 'Baguios ó Ciclones filipinos.' Among the more notable additions to the new edition are a fourth part, dealing with practical rules for navigating, and giving a list of ports of refuge in the far east, especially in the Philippine Archipelago; a new

classification of cyclones of the far east, and the relation between the average motion of the higher clouds in the northern hemisphere and the general cyclonic tracks.

CLIMATE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

PHILIPPINE climatology is a subject which interests a considerable number of Americans, and it is well that there should be generally available an authoritative presentation of the most important facts in this connection. In the 'Report of the Philippine Commission' for 1900, there was published an account of Philippine climates, and this, with some additions and many modifications, appears in Bulletin 2, Census of the Philippine Islands, 1903, 'The Climate of the Philippines,' by Father José Algué, S.J. (Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, 1904, 8vo, pp. 103). The bulletin is illustrated by means of twenty-seven plates, showing graphically the variations of the different climatic elements, the tracks of typhoons, etc., and there are also two colored maps of the islands, showing the mean annual rainfall and the mean annual temperature. On the latter, four shades of yellow are employed to indicate respectively the regions of high, intermediate and mild temperature, and also cool temperature 'because of altitude.' Of course, the word *cool* is relative, and the lower temperatures of higher altitudes in the tropics do not mean seasonal changes such as are experienced in the extra-tropics, especially in the northern hemisphere.

R. DEC. WARD.

GOSSIP ABOUT LAMARCK.

A MOVEMENT is afoot in Paris, to erect, probably in the Jardin des Plantes, an imposing monument to Lamarck. This will take the form of a bronze bust, or possibly a statue, surmounting a large stone base, and on the latter, after the fashion in French design (as in the newly dedicated monument to Pasteur) figures will appear in full relief. In the present case, these will represent the naturalist, blind and infirm, seated on a bench in the Jardin, and standing by his side his devoted daughter, pronouncing her memorable prophecy. And one might add that the little

model of this relief loses none of its pathos when one sees it in the historic house, in the room indeed in which Lamarck suffered and died.

The proposed monument is but one of the many signs that interest in the work of Lamarck is increasing among French zoologists. M. Landrieu, au élève of Giard, has prepared a translation of Packard's 'Life of Lamarck,' but we are told that he has added to it so much material that it will appear almost as a new work. It will shortly be published as a separate volume of the Zoological Society publications (Paris). In this regard it may be added that, thanks to the cooperation of a number of French scientists, notably Professor Hamy and Professor Joubin, M. Landrieu has been able to glean many details as to the life of the French naturalist. Some of these details, it appears, have been obtained through members of Lamarck's family, his descendants having finally been traced, and, curiously enough, one has still a personal interest in the Jardin, if for no other reason than that she has married one of the professors. It appears, furthermore, that a descendant of Lamarck is at present high in station, and is indeed, if gossip be repeated, slightly annoyed at the prominence which is being given an ancestor who was in his day obscure and who was, above all things, tainted with republicanism! An interesting item, which I learned recently from one of the authorities of the Jardin, is that there probably exist many memorabilia* of the naturalist; among them, for example, is a sketch book which was known to contain many portrait sketches of him made by one of

* In this regard cf. SCIENCE, 1904, vol. XIX., pp. 798-800, as to a recently discovered letter signed by Lamarck and Geoffroy (1796) dealing with evolutionary matters. The writer may also mention that he has in his possession what is said to be the lid of Lamarck's *tabatière*. It is ivory-rimmed, and in the glass top appears a signature of Jean Jacques, together with a specimen of *Hypnum proliferum*. The name of the plant is in Lamarck's hand, and the specimen is possibly a souvenir of Lamarck's friendship with Rousseau and of their traditional walks on Mont Valérien.